# Important Facts about Your Cal Grant Award

This fact sheet gives important information for students awarded a state Cal Grant. To make the best use of your Cal Grant award, **it is very important that you read and understand** the information in this fact sheet. Failure to follow these procedures could result in your award being cancelled and the repayment of funds that you have received.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Since you are a new Cal Grant recipient, you were mailed a California Aid Report. Please be advised that future contacts may be in the form of a postcard or e-mail, which will direct you to our WebGrants for Students (WGS) site at webgrants4students.org, where you can view your upcoming year Cal Grant information.

**Facts about CSAC**

- CSAC is the State agency charged with administering the Cal Grant programs and only CSAC has the authority to make an official Cal Grant award offer.
- Any award estimates made by a college are not official until confirmed by CSAC.

**Facts about Your School**

- Your school is responsible for making sure you meet certain Cal Grant program eligibility requirements and may require you to provide documentation before disbursing funds to you.
- Your school will determine your actual Cal Grant award amount based on:
  o Your school of attendance
  o Your financial need
  o Your cost of attendance
  o Your enrollment status (you must attend at least half-time to be eligible)
- Your award amount may change, depending on other forms of financial aid you receive and may be less than the maximum amount on your CAR.
- **The final amount of your award will be determined by your school**.

**Note: This award offer may be withdrawn or award amounts may change as a result of the final state budget.**

**Minimum Cal Grant Program Requirement Facts**

To be eligible for a Cal Grant, **you must**
- Be a resident of California
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Have financial need for attendance at an eligible California school in 2009-10
- Attend no less than half time enrollment (if you drop below half-time status, to retain Cal Grant eligibility, file a Leave of Absence at webgrants4students.org.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by the school
- Meet U.S. Selective Service requirements
- Not exceed program income and asset ceilings
- Be high school graduates or must have completed a high school equivalency such as the GED or the California High School Proficiency examination to receive an Entitlement Cal Grant award.

Each Cal Grant recipient **may not**:
- Be in default of a student loan or owe a grant repayment unless satisfactory arrangements for repayment have been made.
- Have a bachelor's or higher degree (e.g. M.A.) or the equivalent.

**Cal Grant Facts**

- If your Cal Grant award is not reflected on your school financial aid award letter, contact the Financial Aid Office and notify them of your Cal Grant award status.
- Cal Grant A awards provide grant funds to help pay tuition and fees at qualifying institutions offering academic programs of at least two years in length.
- If you are a Cal Grant A participant and attending a California Community College, you will not receive any payment. Your award will be held in reserve for 2 years (up to 3 years upon request after exhausting the 2

- year reserve) for use when you transfer to a tuition or fee-charging school.  To keep your eligibility for a Community College reserve award, you must be enrolled at least half time for the fall term.
- Cal Grant B awards provide grant funds to help pay for your tuition, student fees and other educational costs in a for-credit instructional program of not less than one year in length.
- The Cal Grant B award you receive during your freshman year will pay for educational expenses, including living expenses and expenses for transportation, supplies and books, up to $1551 per academic year. Beginning with your sophomore year, Cal Grant B benefits will help you pay for tuition and fees at public or private four-year colleges or other qualifying institutions.
- Cal Grant B recipients attending a California Community College (CCC) may receive access costs of up to $1,551.  If you have a CC Reserve award or a Cal Grant B, it can be worth a lot to you when you transfer to a tuition/fee-charging school. Visit your financial aid office to discuss a plan that will maximize your Cal Grant funds while attending a CCC and when you transfer to a four year institution.  Remember, when you transfer from one school to another, it is critical that you post a school change at WebGrants for Students at webgrants4students.org.
- Cal Grant recipients can receive no more than four years of full-time grant payment and all payments stop when the student receives a bachelor's degree.  Under certain circumstances, a student may apply for an extension to the length of their grant such as when a student continues on to earn a teaching credential or is enrolled in a mandatory five-year program that requires attendance longer than four years.
- You must attend a Cal Grant eligible school to receive your award.   A list of eligible California schools is listed at www.csac.ca.gov . You are not eligible for a Cal Grant award if you take extension courses, adult education or continuing education coursework.
- If you are attending more than one school, your Cal Grant payment will only be disbursed to you at one institution per term, therefore you must choose the school where you want to be paid.  CSAC must have you correct school information on file to pay you.  To check which school is on file go to webgrants4students.org.
- CSAC disburses Cal Grant funds directly to your school and does not pay funds directly to the student.
- CSAC will **never** request your bank or credit card information to process Cal Grant funds. Check with your school financial aid office to find out about their financial disbursement schedule and procedures.
- You are not eligible for Cal Grant if you attend an out-of-state school or an ineligible California institution.
- If your financial circumstances have changed since you filed your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or you believe you have special financial circumstances which may affect your eligibility, contact your financial aid office.
- You must notify CSAC if your name or Social Security number on the FAFSA is not correct. To do this, download the Grant Record Change Form for Students (G-10) from the CSAC website www.csac.ca.gov.
- You must notify CSAC as early as possible if you do not attend the first school listed on your California Aid Report (CAR).
- Notify CSAC immediately of **any** address or school address at WebGrants for Students at webgrants4students.org. CSAC is not responsible for mail not received from or by you.
- If you are on active duty in the United States Armed Forces or Coast Guard, you may have your Cal Grant deferred for up to three years. Please request this deferment in writing by filling out a Deferment Request Form (G-12) available at webgrants4students.org.

## Updating Your Information

Visit WebGrants for Students at webgrants4students.org. Here you can find valuable resources, information and the tools you need to assist you with the college financial aid process.  You can also monitor and manage your Cal Grant and Chafee awards 24/7 at this site with a secure account where you can update your address, make a school change, post a leave of absence, allow a 3$^{rd}$ party access to your account or view your payment history.

## CSAC Contact Information

When contacting us, always include your name, Social Security number or CSAC ID, address, and phone number.

WebGrants for Students: webgrants4students.org

Telephone:  Toll-free (888) 224-7268
Internet Access:  www.csac.ca.gov or www.calgrants.org
E-mail: studentsupport@csac.ca.gov

General Correspondence and Appeals:

California Student Aid Commission
Student Support Services Branch
P.O. Box 419027
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9027

FAX # 916-464-8002